

CLAIMS

1. Method of distributing encrypted portions of an audiovisual programme to user terminals (T1, T2), in which the successive portions of the programme are encrypted with the aid of different keys, characterized in that it consists, on initiation, from a user terminal, of a telephone communication with a call centre (4), in transmitting in sequence from this call centre and during the telephone communication the keys to the user terminal, doing so in a manner synchronized with the distribution of the successive encrypted portions of the programme.

2. Method according to Claim 1, in which the telephone communication utilizes an Internet protocol.

3. Method according to either of Claims 1 and 2, in which synchronization time codes are transmitted with the keys to the user terminal.

4. Method according to Claims 1 to 3, in which, on completion of the telephone communication with a user terminal, a duration of telephone communication is determined in the call centre so as to draw up a bill corresponding to the reception of the programme by the user terminal.

5. Method according to one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the call centre is a centre for receiving telephone calls of a telephone operator.

6. Decoder (D1, D2) for receiver of audiovisual programmes, in which successive portions of a programme are decrypted with the aid of a succession of different keys, characterized in that it is designed to be connected up, by way of a telephone communication interface (M1, M2), to a call centre (4) and to recover the successive keys in sequence during the communication with the call centre and to do so in a manner synchronized with the decryption of the successive portions of the programme,

the said decoder preferably being able to decrypt encrypted programme portions distributed according to a method in accordance with any one of Claims 1 to 5.

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7. Decoder according to Claim 6, designed to recover synchronization time codes from the call centre in association with the keys.

8. Decoder according to either of Claims 6 and 7, in which the
10 communication interface is a telephone modem.

9. Decoder according to Claim 8, in which the communication interface is an ADSL modem.

15 10. Decoder according to any one of Claims 6 to 9, in which the communication interface utilizes an Internet protocol.

11. Method of decoding an audiovisual programme, according to which successive portions of the programme are decrypted with the aid of a succession
20 of different keys, characterized in that it consists in connecting up, by way of a telephone communication interface (M1, M2), to a call centre (4) so as to recover the successive keys in sequence during the communication with the call centre and to do so in a manner synchronized with the decryption of the successive portions of the programme

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the said method preferably being intended to be implemented by means of a decoder (D1, D2) in accordance with any one of Claims 6 to 10.

12. Decryption routine for decrypting successive portions of an
30 audiovisual programme with the aid of a succession of different keys, characterized in that it is designed to set up a telephone communication with a call centre (4) having a predefined call number and in that it is designed to

recover the successive keys from the call centre during the telephone communication and to do so in a manner synchronized with the decryption of the successive portions of the programme,

- 5 the said routine preferably being intended to implement a decoding method in accordance with Claim 11.